

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 IO-11 /092 W

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R 291458Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG AG MO MR

SUBJECT: SADAT SENDS VP ON SAHARA MISSION

REF: CAIRO 1087

1. VP HUSNI MUBARAK DEPARTED MORNING JANUARY 29 TO CONVEY URGENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO HEADS OF STATE OF MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA FROM PRESIDENT SADAT. CAIRO PAPERS, IN FRONT-PAGE NON-FEATURE ARTICLES, REPORT MUBARAK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXERT NECESSARY EFFORTS TO CONTAIN ESCALATING SITUATION IN SAHARA REGION.

2. PRESTIGIOUS SHAIKH AL-AZHAR JANUARY 28 MADE PUBLIC APPEAL TO PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING KHALID TO STOP ARMED CLASH BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. REPORTEDLY, HE ALSO CABLED SIMILAR APPEAL IN THE NAME OF ISLAM TO BOUMEDIENNE AND KING

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HASAN.

3. COMMENT: GOE, WHICH HAD EXERTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT IN MIDDLE BETWEEN ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS, BY AVOIDING UP TO NOW ANY ACTIVE MEDIATION EFFORT, HAS NOW APPARENTLY DECIDED TO TAKE MORE VISIBLE ROLE. BOUMEDIENNE'S TELEPHONE CALL TO SADAT JANUARY 27 AND SADAT'S SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HASAN (REFTEL) BROUGHT EGYPT INTO SPOTLIGHT. DISPATCH TO MAGHRIB OF SYRIAN DEPPRIMIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF MAY ALSO HAVE PROVIDED IMPETUS TO NEW ACTIVITY BY GOE.

4. EGYPT, AS AN ARAB LEADER, HAS NOT CHALKED UP ANY SUCCESS IN ARAB POLICY FIELD RECENTLY; E.G., SYRIAN SUCCESS AND EGYPTIAN INABILITY INFLUENCE LEBANESE EVENTS HAVE HUMILIATED PRESIDENCY AND MFA. SADAT MAY NOW BELIEVE THAT INTRA-ARAB SHOOTING WAR REQUIRES, IF ONLY FOR EGYPT'S PUBLIC IMAGE, VISIBLE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE FROM CAIRO.
EILTS

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